

**Worksheet**  
**Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)**  
 U.S. Department of the Interior  
 Bureau of Land Management

OFFICE: Humboldt River Field Office, LLNVW01000

TRACKING NUMBER: DOI-BLM-NV-W010-2013-0001-DNA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER:

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: Long Canyon (G5NV) Fire Emergency  
 Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Temporary Fence

T.46N R.36E Sec. 01,02,10,11,15,24,25,26,34

T.47N R.37E Sec. 28,32,33

T.46N R.37E Sec. 5,6,7,8,18,19

Sage Grouse Aerial Seeding

T.46N R.36E Sec. 25,26,34,35,36

T.46N R.37E Sec. 18,19,20,21,22,28,29,30,31,32,33

T.45NR.36E Sec. 01,02,03,10,11,12,13,14,

15,21,22,23,24,27,28,33

T.45N R.37E Sec. 4,5,6

Die-off Aerial/Drill Seeding

T.46N R.37E Sec. 14,15,22,23,26,27

T.45N R.36E Sec. 23,24,25,26

T.45N R.37E Sec. 4,5,8,9,10,16

T.44N R.36E Sec. 3,4,5,9

Erosion Control Seeding

T.46N R.37E Sec. 5,7,8,18

APPLICANT (if any): Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

The Long Canyon Fire was ignited by lightning on 8/10/2012 just south of Cordero Mine.

<b><i>Resource Type</i></b>	<b><i>Acres/Miles Burned</i></b>
Preliminary Priority Sage-grouse Habitat	20,520 ac

Preliminary General Sage-grouse Habitat	2,266 ac
Year-round Pronghorn Habitat	32,424 ac
Crucial Winter Pronghorn Range	5,526 ac
Year-round Mule Deer Range	36,846 ac
Crucial Winter Mule Deer Range	12,527 ac
Bighorn Sheep Potential Habitat	415 ac
Allotment Fence	12 miles
<b>Allotments:</b>	
Jordan Meadows	partial
Crowley Creek	partial

**A. Description of the Proposed Action with attached map(s) and any applicable mitigation measures.**

Closures

Full or partial closures to livestock grazing would be implemented for the Jordan Meadows and Crowley Creek Allotments. Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR) closures would be in effect until the objectives defined in the ESR Plan are met; the length of closure would also depend on the objectives outlined in the pending Notice of Grazing Closure Final Decision issued to the permittees by the Field Office Manager. Existing allotment and pasture fences damaged by the fire would be repaired in accordance with the current permanent fence specifications between October 2012 and April 2013. The burned area will be closed to grazing for two growing seasons, or until the objectives that are identified in the pending Notice of Grazing Closure Final Decision are met.

Temporary Fence

Approximately 6 miles of temporary fence would be constructed within the Jordan Meadows Allotment to assist in the livestock closures. The fence would be constructed according to the current temporary fence specifications between November 2012 and April of 2013. Temporary fences will be removed when the objectives of the relevant livestock grazing closures are met.

Aerial Seeding

This project proposes to aerially seed approximately 13,284 acres of PPH or PGH with seeds based on availability, adaptation, and probability of success consistent with the National Technical Team 2011 Sage-Grouse Conservation Measures; the seed mix would include yarrow, perennial flax, mountain big sagebrush, Wyoming big sagebrush, and antelope bitterbrush. Other site-adapted native plant species will be included in addition to, or as an alternative to the identified species, depending on seed cost and/or

availability. This seeding would occur between December 2012 and March 2013.

This project also proposes to aerially seed Wyoming big sagebrush over the “cheatgrass die-off” drill seeding project area. Other site-adapted native plant species may be utilized, depending on availability and cost. Approximately 2539 acres will be seeded, and this seeding would occur between December 2012 and March 2013.

#### Ground Seeding

This project proposes to drill seed 2539 acres occurring within historic cheatgrass die-off areas, and 410 acres for the purpose of long term soil stabilization. The proposed seed mix includes Sandberg’s bluegrass, fourwing saltbush, shadscale, crested wheatgrass, forage kochia, and Indian ricegrass. Siberian wheatgrass may be utilized as an alternative to crested wheatgrass. Other site-adapted native plant species may be incorporated in addition to, or as an alternative to the identified species. All ground seeding areas have had a Class II cultural inventory; all identified sites would be avoided. These seedings would occur between November 2012 and March 2013.

#### Invasive Plants and Noxious Weeds Management

Noxious weeds and non-native invasive plants would be inventoried within the proposed project area. Located infestations, if any, would be treated with BLM approved herbicides as appropriate, and in compliance with BLM operating procedures and label requirements for BLM approved herbicides. Approximately 200 acres are identified for treatment: 200 acres are anticipated/proposed for treatment in year one, and 200 acres (either re-treatment or new infestation treatments) each in year two and three (all treatments would be initiated in early spring or mid-to-late fall).

Treatments may include one or more of the following chemicals depending on species present in project location:

Imazipyr  
Glyphosate  
2,4-D  
Picloram  
Dicamba  
Metsulphuron methyl  
Clorsulphuron

All drill seeding within former cheatgrass die-off blocks are proposed for treatment with Imazapic. Application of Imazapic will suppress annual invasive plants and advantage seeded perennial plants. Proposed application will occur immediately following drill seeding operations between November 2012 to the end of January, 2013 and again during the fall of calendar year 2014.

Monitoring

All treatments would be monitored using established protocols for treatment efficacy and efficiency.

**B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance**

LUP Name\*\_ Paradise Denio Management Framework Plan (MFP)

Date Approved\_\_1982\_\_\_\_\_

Other document\_ Winnemucca District Fire Management Plan \_\_\_\_

Date Approved\_\_September 2004\_\_

\*List applicable LUPs (for example, resource management plans; activity, project, management, or program plans; or applicable amendments thereto)

**The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:**

The proposed treatments are in conformance with **the Paradise-Denio MFP:**

**Wildlife MFPIII Decisions WL-1.21 P.D.:** Maintain and improve habitat for sensitive, protected, threatened and endangered species listed on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered and Threatened List, BLM-Nevada Department of Wildlife Sensitive Species List and those existing Federal and state laws and regulations.

**Paradise-Denio MFP, Standard Operating Procedures: .45 Soil-Water-Air**

“Consider rehabilitation areas which have had protective vegetative cover destroyed by wildfire... Utilize seeding or other watershed stabilization techniques as required. Rehabilitation must be protected from grazing until adequate seedling establishment has been attained.”

The proposed treatments are in conformance with the **Winnemucca Field Office Fire Management Plan, 2004**, which states:

1. “Break up monocultures through the use of chemical, biological, and/or mechanical means to stop the spread of the affected area especially in areas that border important habitats.”
2. “Seed areas with perennial grass species to reduce the dominance of cheatgrass... Non-fire fuels treatments would be utilized to achieve resource goals and objectives based on site-specific habitat conditions”

**The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (objective, terms, and conditions):**

**Paradise-Denio MFP (1982)**

Although not specifically addressed, weed treatments conform to wildlife, range, and watershed objectives (**WLA 1.12, RM2.1**), which includes improving and maintaining habitat quantity, quality, diversity, and production by artificial methods when appropriate.

**C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.**

- **Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States Environmental Impact Statement** Record of Decision 1991.
- **Normal Year Fire Rehabilitation Plan Environmental Assessment** EA# NV-020-04-21, Decision Record and Finding of No Significant Impact 8/19/04.
- **Vegetation Treatment Using Herbicides on BLM Lands in Seventeen Western States Programmatic Final Environmental Impact Statement**, Record of Decision 9/29/07.
- **Integrated Weed Management Environmental Assessment** NV-020-02-19, Decision Record and Finding of No Significant Impact 8/27/02.
- **Montana Mountains Cooperative Fuels Treatment Project Environmental Assessment** DOI-BLM-NV-WO10-2011-0005-EA, Decision Record and Finding of No Significant Impact 8/02/2012.
- **A Report on National Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Measures.**  
Produced by: Sage-grouse National Technical Team, 12/21/2011 (pp 27)

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g., biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, and monitoring report).

**Greater Sage-Grouse Interim Management Policies and Procedures**, IM 2012-043 (December 2011)

**USFWS Biological Opinion for the Normal Year Fire Rehabilitation Plan** (August 2004)

**USFWS Letter of Concurrence for the Montana Mountains Cooperative Fuels Treatment Project** (April 2012)

**D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria**

**1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA documents(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource**

**conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?  
If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?**

Documentation of answer and explanation:

Yes, the Normal Fire Rehabilitation Plan EA NV-020-04-21 (DR/FONSI 8/19/04), addresses the proposed treatments including drill seeding, broadcast seeding, aerial seeding, and fence repair, and fence construction. Control of noxious weeds is analyzed in the Normal Fire Rehabilitation Plan EA NV-020-04-21 (DR/FONSI 8/19/04), Integrated Weed Management EANV-020-02-19 (DR/FONSI 8/27/02), Montana Mountains Cooperative Fuels Treatment Project EA US-DOI-NV-WO10-2011-0005-EA (DR/FONSI 8/02/12) which also analyzes the use of Imazapic, and the Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States EIS (ROD 9/29/07).

**2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA documents(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?**

Documentation of answer and explanation:

Yes, the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA documents are appropriate with respect to the current proposed action and current environmental concerns, interests, resource values and circumstances.

The majority of the project acres were known habitat for Greater Sage Grouse before the Long Canyon fire occurred. Greater Sage Grouse are a candidate species for listing under the Endangered Species Act, and are currently a BLM sensitive species. Effects to Sage Grouse and Sage Grouse habitat from ESR activities were analyzed in the Winnemucca District Normal Year Fire Rehabilitation Plan, which states that one of the principle functions of the ESR program is “to restore habitats that fall within sage-grouse/sagebrush obligate species use areas.”

**3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, and updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?**

Documentation of answer and explanation:

Yes, the existing analysis is adequate and there is no new information or circumstances known at this time.

**4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?**

Documentation of answer and explanation:

Yes, the analytical approach used in the existing NEPA documents continues to be appropriate for the current proposed action.

**5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?**

Documentation of answer and explanation:

Yes, public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA documents are adequate. In addition, there has been coordination with Nevada Department of Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Native American consultation.

**E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted**

<b>Name /Title</b>	<b>Resource/Agency Represented</b>	<b>Signature/Date</b>	<b>Comments (Attach if more room is needed)</b>
Wes Barry	Range	/s/ 11/30/2012	None
Rob Burton	Veg/Soils	/s/ 11/27/2012	None
Mark Hall	NAC and Cultural	/s/ 11/29/2012	Drill seeding should be done in areas cleared by cultural dept; Project Lead Response: Crew maps have incorporated avoidance areas
John McCann	Hydrology/Riparian	/s/ 11/29/2012	None
Nancy Spencer-Morris	Wildlife	/s/ 11/27/2012	None
Greg Lynch	Fisheries	/s/ 11/30/2012	None
Allie Henson	GIS	/s/ 12/31/2012	None
Eric Baxter	ESR Lead	/s/ 11/30/2012	None
NEPA	Lynn Ricci	/s/ 12/30/2012	None
	OR	/s/ 12/30/2012	None
NEPA	Zwaantje Rorex		None
Wild Horse and Burro	Melanie Mirati	s/s 11/30/2012	None

Note: Refer to the EA/EIS for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original environmental analysis or planning documents.

☒ **Conclusion** *(If you found that one or more of these criteria is not met, you will not be able to check this box.)*

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM' compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.

\_\_\_\_ Eric Baxter /s/ 12/3/2012\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Project Lead

\_\_\_\_ Lynn Ricci /s/ 12/3/2012\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of NEPA Coordinator

\_\_\_\_ Edward Seum /s/ 12/3/2012\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Responsible Official Date

**Note:** The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.